

## **Minutes of Uintah Basin Regional Council held on of Oct 12, 2006 at the University Park Marriott in SLC**

**Attending:** Paul Nielson, Tammie Lucero, Wayne Griffin, Mark Raymond, Shirley Weathers, Shelley Fenn, Dave Haslem, Stewart Leith, Bill Johnson, Irene Hansen, Paul Hacking, Dan Wheeler, Judy Chambley, Anne Mackiewicz

**Staff:** Shelly Ivie, Toni Ansel, Tracy Parrish, Tami Huntington, JoJo Gale, Bob Gilbert, Michael Hanni

**Guests:** Casey Richens, Mrs. Richens

Paul welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Paul briefly drew attention to the economic information for the Basin. The 2nd quarter data for 2006 shows strong increases in job and wage growth compared to previous quarters. He said there was a recent article in the Salt Lake Tribune about growth in the Basin and the timing of a possible bust.

### **Committee Reports:**

Dan said the Operations and Planning Committee recently met to explore drug rehab options. The Committee also reviewed the two items assigned for activity: The first was item no 2 that dealt with additional TANF worksites. The Committee felt that there were plenty of jobs available, giving good employment options for TANF customers. The second was no. 10, which dealt with adequate child care facilities. Dan said the Committee was cautiously optimistic that the need was being met. Anne provided some child care information for the Basin. Dan also reported that the Committee will continue to look into drug abuse counseling and rehabilitation options that are, or possibly could be, available locally.

Bill then reported for the Vernal Area Employers Committee, saying the Business Symposium was scheduled for Oct 17th, with Fred Ball being the keynote speaker. He said that his office is getting a lot of calls from housing developers across the country. Walgreen's has started to build its store on W Highway 40. Reported that a seminar on Internet Security was held in August with over 30 attending.

Paul then reviewed the list of projects upon which the Council has been focusing. The Committees had reviewed each task and provided feedback. Recommendations are shown below in bold:

1. Be involved in the development of the state energy plan.

**Continue to be involved.**

2. Council involvement in developing additional worksites for TANF customers and youth.

**There are adequate job opportunities; i.e. worksites, available. Take off list**

3. Additional focus on apprenticeships. Been an increase in apprenticeships.

**Recommend taking off for now.**

4. Support for USU/UBATC technical program associates degrees that would be transferable from UBATC if a student wanted higher education at with USU.

**Seems to be a statewide problem. May need to explore.**

5. Find ways for the Council to assist in and develop support for Four year Nursing Program at USU.

**Want to see happen. Stay on list.**

6. Continue development and support for health care careers.

**Will continue with Healthcare Task force.**

7. Improve understanding of council members and employers on available community programs; i.e. energy and healthcare.

**May need more definition here. Lots of information available via websites. Will promote helpinthebasin.com. Could utilize Chamber and larger employers to distribute essential news, such as new doctors coming to practice.**

8. Work for USU/UBATC Building in Vernal.

**Big success in getting the building funded. Now need to be involved in related issues of building, campus, and training.**

9. Support the Tele/Health initiatives.

**Was funded. Can remove from list.**

10 & 11. Support opportunities for enrichment/learning environment for 0-3 year olds. Children need quality daycare centers.

**Cautiously optimistic that adequate capacity is available for childcare. Can remove from list for now.**

12. There is a lack of Workforce in the Uintah Basin. Immediate need exists to help employers find qualified employee, and the opportunities for local residence to improve their occupations and economic situations.

**Issue has not gone away. Will continue to track, and impact, where possible.**

13. Shortage of Housing

**Will continue to track, and impact, where possible.**

14. Accurate data about the changes in workforce, population, etc. in the Basin is needed to prepare for the future. Accurate data is needed when applying for grants. Counties, cities and others maybe could leverage some of severance tax to develop accurate numbers.

**Committees concluded we will need to work with what we have until the 2010 Census. Employment data from DWS is timely. Suggest remove from list.**

15. More services for Daggett County.

**Brian Raymond reported that the data and information on employment seminars has been helpful. He said they would like to work to receive more short-term training opportunities on topics such as computer basics, customer service, unemployment issues, jobs.utah.gov for employers, and how to grow businesses.**

Paul then recognized Casey Richens, a successful youth from Roosevelt who will be participating on the Workforce Investment Act youth panel at 11:00 am.

The meeting ended at 9:00 am.